A TRUE

INFORMATION

To the Nation, from the People called

QUAKERS.

Being a Brief account of the

PROCEEDINGS

Of some of the *Magistrates* in and about this *City* of *LONDON*, Against the aforesaid People, from the third day of the 5th Moneth called *July*, to the last day of the 6th Moneth called *August*, 1664.

Composed and Published for Satisfaction of those who desire to be Informed Concerning this Matter.
By *J. C.*

And Haman said unto the King, there is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed amongst the people in all the Provinces of thy Kingdom; and their Laws are divers from all people, neither keep they the Kings Laws, therefore it is not for the Kings profit to suffer them: If it please the King, let it be written that they may be destroyed, &c. Ester. 3. 8, 9. *Let all who read consider what this Counsel brought forth.*

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A true Information to the Nation, from the People called Quakers, &c.

MAny and great have been the ſufferings and perſecutions that we the people and ſervants of the Lord called Quakers, have undergone and ſuſtained ſince we were gathered out of the world to be a peculiar people unto God; and many Laws and unrighteous Decrees have been made and proſecuted againſt us by every power as they have come up one after another, thereby thinking to root us out from being a people unto God in this Nation, or to deſtroy and root out the holy ſeed and righteous plant which the Lord God Almighty hath planted in us and amongſt us; and we have even been the Butt, for all the Babyloniſh Archers to ſhut at, not only in this land of our Nativity, but alſo in every Region where the Lord by his power hath brought us to bear witneſs of his name and power: and we have been always looked upon by many as a Sect (as the Apoſtles were in their days) and ſo have been every where ſpoken againſt, and Antichriſt in his Members hath beſtirred himſelf even where ever we come, to raiſe perſecution againſt us, and to ſeek our total ruine and extirpation if poſſible: and thus great oppoſition we have met with on every hand, and theſe things we have ſuſtained not for any evil doing, but only for the exercise of our Conſciences in Matters of Worſhip and Faith towards God, but the Lord who firſt ſeparated us from our Mothers womb, and gathered us from amongſt the men of this Generation to be a people to himſelf; he hath been always with us, and in all our ſufferings which we have ſuſtained from the hands of our cruel enemies, he hath given us courage, and boldneſs, and valour, ſo that we have been able to bear all things with patience, and he hath clothed us with the Armour of his own righteouſneſs, and put the ſword of the ſpirit into our hands, with which we have wreſtled with the ſpiritual wickedneſs that has been in the high

places, and they have not prevailed againſt us, to bring to paſs their ſeveral Decrees and Determinations, but through the power of the Lord we have conquered and overcome: and have ſeen the end of many who have riſen up againſt us: And through all theſe tryals, and ſufferings, and perſecutions, the word of God hath grown and encreaſed, and the bleſſed truth which we profeſs and bear witneſs to, hath greatly flouriſhed, and ſpread forth its ſelf, and many have been and are daily gathered into it, and our number is daily added unto and encreaſed, bleſſed be the Lord Almighty, ſo that we do find (as the Apoſtle did in his day) that our bands and ſufferings ſerve for the futherance of the Goſpel of Chriſt, and for the exaltation of the worthy name of the Lord, which is the main thing we aim at; ſo that what ever become of theſe our earthly Tabenacles, or how ever they may be diſpoſed of; we have our deſire and expectation, in that the truth proſpereth and flouriſheth: And we do not at all doubt nor queſtion but that as the Lord hath been with us in times paſt unto this day and hath born us up in the midſt of our ſufferings and tryals, which we nave undergone for his name ſakes; and as he hath renowned his worthy name, and ſpread forth his truth thereby, ſo he will be always with us to ſuſtain us, bear us up, and carry us through all ſufferings and tribulations whatſoever, that (for the future) may come upon us for the Goſpels ſake, and that our ſufferings ſhall ſtill (as in times paſt) make for the furtherance of the glorious Goſpel of Chriſt, and for the ſpreading, exaltation, and growing of his bleſſed truth which we profeſs and bear witneſs to: And in the faith of this we are reſolved to reſt in patience, waiting to receive the end thereof, and we doubt not but there are ſeveral thouſands in this Nation that are like minded with us in this matter.

And now it is in my heart (for the Information and Satisfaction of ſuch who may deſire to be informed concerning the preſent proceedings of the Magiſtrates in and about this City of *London*, againſt us the people of God called Quakers) to give a brief Relation of the Heads of their proceedings, that the unrighteouſneſs and cruelty thereof may be rightly underſtood.

The

The third day after the late Act came in force (which was made to prevent Seditious Meetings of such, who under colour and pretence of Religious Worship, do in their Meetings Plot and Contrive Insurrections) Being the first day of the Week, and the third day of the 5th Moneth 1664. our friends were peaceably Assembled together at their usual Meeting place at *Horsly Down* in *Southwark*, to wait upon God and to Worship him, where a servant of the Lord was declaring the truth to the people, at which time there came a compony of arm'd Souldiers very rudely into the Meeting, and as they passed in through the Entry, one of them shot of his Musquet up into the House, and the Bullet went through several Sealings and came very near a Cradle where a Child use to lie: And afterwards they halled friends out of their Meeting, and brought them before three called Justices, (*viz.*) *John Bromfield*, *John Lenthall*, and *George Moore*, who proceeded against them (according as is provided (in the aforesaid Act) against such who under pretence of Religious Worship do contrive Insurrections) although its well known to most people in this Nation, that we are no such people, that in our Meetings use such practices, but have oft given a publick testimony against them. so becaus friends could not for Conscience sake pay the several Fines (which was five pounds a piece) which they unjustly imposed upon them, they were to the number of 7 of them committed to the *White Lion* prison in *Southwark*, there to remain without Bail or main prize for the space of three Moneths. And that same night after they were brought into the Prison they were put into the common Ward amongst the Felons, who took Money by violence out of some of their Pockets, and kept it from them.

Again, on the 10th day of the Moneth aforesaid, being the first day of the Week, the Souldiers, (*viz.*) the Red-coats (Guarded with a party of Horse) came to the aforesaid Meeting House at *Horsly Down*, where our friends were again peaceably Assembled in the fear of the Lord to Worship him; And the said Souldiers took many of them out of their peaceable Meeting, and being carried unto the Guard at *Margets Hill*, the aforesaid Justices (so called) came and proceeded to try them as aforesaid

by

by the late Act, but when the Witneſſes came they could not at all prove that they were met under any pretence of Worſhip or Religious Exerciſes; yet notwithſtanding the ſaid Juſtices impoſed Fines on them of five pound a piece. And for refuſing to pay the ſaid Fines, they were committed and ſent to the *White Lion* Priſon aforeſaid, (to the number of 13. of them) there to remain without Bail or main prize, for the ſpace of three Moneths.

And upon the 17th day of the fifth Moneth aforeſaid, according to our uſual manner, our friends were peaceably Aſſembled together at our own hired Houſe at *Mile-end-Green*, and in the time of their Meeting, there came ſeveral armed Souldiers ruſhing in through the yard, and ſet Guards at the doors that none might paſs out or come in; and after a while a ſervant of the Lord ſtood up to declare the word of the Lord to the people, and as he was ſpeaking and mentioning the name of the Lord, there came in *William Rider* and *George Marſh*, and one of them in enmity and contempt, ſaid in the name of the Devil; And commanded the Souldiers to pluck him down that was ſpeaking, which was accordingly done, and they alſo took the reſt of Men-friends to the number 32. and brought them into another room of the ſame houſe, before the ſaid *Marſh* and *Rider* called Juſtices of the Peace, who there examined them of their names, places of their abode, and age, &c. and read to them ſome part of the aforeſaid Act made to prevent and ſuppreſs Seditious Conventicles, in which Inſurrections are plotted and contrived, which Act doth not at all reach us, we being no ſuch people which that Act maketh mention of; yet they proceeded to charge ſeveral Fines upon us (which we refuſing to pay, becauſe we were not tranſgreſſours.) They committed us to Priſon in *Newgate* in *London*, there to remain without Bail or Main prize for the ſpace of three Moneths, which is the utmoſt Penalty for the firſt offence (as they call it) of the late Act aforeſaid.

Again, upon th 24th day of the 5th Moneth aforeſaid, our Friends being met together peaceably in the fear of the Lord, to wait upon him, and to Worſhip him at their uſual Meeting

place

place near *Wheeler-street* in *Spittle-Fields*, there came one called Captain *Longman*, and with him two Files of Musquetteers, and two Constables with their guard of Halberds, Javlins, and other weapons. And the said *Longman* using many evil words to friends led the men one by one, and committed them to the Constables and Souldiers with the rest of their Guard, who brought them to a house not far off the Meeting place, and there kept them till two called Justices came to them (*viz.*) one *C. Pitfield* of *Haggsdowne*, and *Richard Abell*, who examined them of their names and wherefore they met, &c. And then Fined them (to the number of 18.) some 5 s. some 2 s. some 1 s. which for Conscience sake they could not pay being no Offenders, and so was by the aforesaid *Pitfield* and *Abell* committed and sent to *Newgate*, there to remain without Bail or Main prize for the space of six days, and with them were committed ten more taken at the same Meeting, whose names they knew not; And this is to be observed by the Reader, that their committing friends for so short a time, is not because of any tenderness in the Magistrates towards friends, but contrarywise, because they may the sooner get them in Prison again upon the second and third offences as they call it, in order to the fulfilling of their envious wills, which is to expel us out of the land of our Nativity.

Again, upon the 24th of the 5th Moneth aforesaid, being the first day of the Week, according to our usual manner, and at our usual Meeting-house at *Mile-end-Green* in the Parish of *Stepney*, our friends were Assembled in the fear of the Lord to wait upon him, and to Worship him in Spirit and in Truth, and when they were thus Assembled, there came a Constable with a Company of Souldiers and Watch-men armed and violently rushed into our Meeting, and the Constable commanded the doors to be shut, and without producing any warrant for what he did, he ordered the said Souldiers and Watch-men every one to lay hold of a man which accordingly they did, and led them forth of the Meeting, and so to the Tower, and there kept them a while, and then and there brought them before those called Justices, who demanded their names, places of abode, &c to which

answer

anſwer was given, and then becauſe for Conſcience ſake they could not pay the ſeveral Fines unrighteouſly impoſed on them, they were committed and ſent) to *Newgate* Priſon, there to remain without Bail or Main prize for the ſpace of ſix days.

Again, upon the 31th day of the 5th Moneth aforeſaid, being the firſt day of the Week, our friends were again Aſſembled in the fear of the Lord to wait upon him, and to Worſhip him in the truth at our uſual Meeting-houſe at *Mile-end-Green*, in the Pariſh of *Stepney*, where *John Higgins* was Miniſtring the word of truth to the people, and there came divers Conſtables and other armed men, who violently ruſhed in upon them, and without producing any warrant for what they did they laid violent hands on them, and halled them out, and had them to an Alehouſe, where was *William Rider* and *George Marſh* called Juſtices with divers others, and being brought before them they asked their names, &c. to which anſwer was given according to freedom, then they impoſed a Fine upon them, ſome five ſhillings, ſome more, ſome leſs, for Meeting together to Worſhip God, which they ſay is an offence of their Law, which for Conſcience ſake friends could not pay, being indeed no tranſgreſſours of any juſt or righteous Law; whereupon they were committed and ſent to the common Priſon at *Newgate*, there to remain without Bail or Main prize for the ſprce of five days.

Again, upon the 7th day of the 6th Moneth being the firſt day of the Week, after our friends were parted from their Meeting place near *Wheeler-ſtreet*, the moſt part of them, only ſome remaining behind were ſeized in the Street and Alley, at the command of one *C. Pitfield* and *T. Swallow* Juſtices, ſo called and were brought to an Alehouſe, and from thence committtd to *Newgate* by the ſaid *Pitfield* and *Swallow*, there to remain without Bail or Main prize for the ſpace of ſix dayes, ſome of them being as they ſaid for the firſt offence, and ſome for the ſecond, and yet they had no witneſs or evidence to prove that they had met together.

And upon the 7th day of the 6th Moneth aforeſaid, friends being again peaceably met together, not under colour of Religious

gious Exercises, to plot or contrive Insurrections, but really to Worship God in spirit and in truth at our aforesaid Meeting-house at *Mile-end-Green*, where there was a friend that was Ministring the truth to the people, there came divers Constables and other armed men violently in amongst them, and halled them out before *William Rider* and *Thomas Player* called Justices, to the number of 31. and after some examination imposed several Fines upon them for their Assembling together as aforesaid, which being altogether Antichristian, they could not for Conscience sake pay; whereupon they were committed and sent to *Newgate*, there to remain without Bail or main prize for the space of four days, some being for the first offence as they called it, and some for the second, and several of them who did not declare their names they committed to Prison there to remain till they were delivered by due course of Law.

Again, on the 14th day of the 6th Moneth aforesaid, being the first day of the Week, our friends were Assembled according to their wonted manner at their usual Meeting-place at *Mile-end-Green*, where there was a friend that was Ministring the truth to the people, in which time there came divers Constables and other armed men; and by force and violence halled them out of their peaceble Meeting, and brought them before the aforesaid *William Rider* and *George Marsh*, who examined them whether their coming there were to Worship God? to which they could not deny, but innocently confess it, and vindicated their right and privilege so to do, being peaceable subjects of this Nation, and in no wise disturbers of the peace; for which they were declared by the said *Marsh* and *Rider* to be convicted as transgressours of the late Law made to suppress seditious Conventicles, some of the first offence, some of the second as they call it, and some others that were for the third, and for refusing to pay the several Fines then imposed upon them for their thus Meeting to Worship God, they were committed and sent to the common Goal in *Newgate* there to remain without Bail or main prize for the space of two days, such as were for the first and second account, and such as were on the third account to be kept till the next Goal-delivery, on order to their tryal for Transportation.

And upon the 14th day of the 6th Moneth aforesaid, being the first day of the Week, we being peaceably met together at our usual meeting-place at the *Bull* and *Mouth* in *London*, the Sheriffs with a certain number of Millitary officers, and with guards consisting of the Mayors-officers, Sheriffs-men, City Marshals and their men, with the Constables Guards, came and entred our meeting, and in a furious manner preist towards the place where a friend was declaring the way of truth and salvation unto the people, and commanded him to come down, which he being not free to do at their command, two of the officers stept upon a form near unto him, and in a great fury drew their Swords, and one of them with his hanger smote him, and others of them laid on several friends with their swords and staves till one of them broke his sword, and so when they had pulled out the friend that was speaking, they came in more of them and hailed out friends both men and women, and brought them one, and two, and three, and four at a time to the number of about 200 in all to *Guild-Hall*, and several friends they took in the streets that only stood to behold the cruelty of their proceedings towards us, and brought them also to the same place, where they were kept close prisoners till about mid-night, and so that their works of darkness might not appear to the publick view of the people, they ordered the Marshal of the City with a very great guard of halberd-men to conduct us to *Newgate* about that time of night, which with Torches lighted was accordingly done, though no *Mittimus* at all was sent with us, and the next day about 20 of us were called for again to *Guild-Hall*, where they were brought before the Mayor, and being examined concerning their meeting contrary to the late Act, several Fines were imposed on them, which because for Conscience sake they could not pay, being no transgressours of any just Law, they were recommitted, one for three moneths, and another for one moneth, and others for 14 days, though that which they called their offences were all alike; And on the 14 day following they called for about 12 more of us, that were taken the first day of the Week aforesaid, to the *Guild-Hall* before the Mayor and *Thomas Adams* Alderman, where we were examined apart concerning our meeting contrary to the late Act as they said, and when they had imposed several Fines on us, and we refused to

pay

pay as transgressours, we were recommitted to *Newgate*, there to remain for the space of 14 days, and the 6th day of the same week about 60 more of the same Company that were taken at the *Bull* and *Mouth* the first day of the week aforesaid, were called for to the *Old Baily*, where the Mayor was with some others, who examined them concerning their meeting as aforesaid, which being done and the several Fines imposed on them, refused to be paid, they were recommitted to the prison at *Newgate*, there to remain for the space of 9 days without Bail or main prize, so the illegalness of their proceedings against us may hereby be understood, for they kept many of us full five days without any warrant, or being brought before any Magistrate, which is contrary to any known Law of *England*.

Also it is observable, that the witnesses that came in against us when we were examined at the *Guild-Hall*, were such that made no Conscience of their words, for when friends that were taken in the street were brought before the Mayor and examined, these witnesses would testifie that they took them in the meeting.

Moreover on the 16th day of the moneth aforesaid, being the 3d day of the week, when we were met together in our prison room to wait upon God and worship him, one of the Keepers men came in amongst us, and fetcht him away that was speaking, and put him in the hole where murtherers use to be put after sentence of death, and there kept a certain time. And on the 18th day of the moneth aforesaid, being the 5th day of the week, as we were again assembled in our prison room in the same manner and to the same end aforesaid, the Keepers man came in amongst us again, and because he could not come at the friend that was speaking by reason of the throng of friends that stood about him, he fell laying on both men and women with a great staff, and some of the Felons that were with him did also beat friends with their fists, and one of the women thieves came with a knife, swearing she would stab friends, and did attempt so to do though prevented, yet after a little season that tumult was qualified, and the friend that was speaking amongst us was taken away and put into another part of the prison.

Again, upon the 21th day of the 6th moneth aforesaid friends being peaceably assembled in the fear of the Lord to wait upon

him and worship him in their meeting-house at *Mile-end-Green*, there came several Constables with their guard, behaving themselves very rudely and uncivilly towards friends, but after a while came two called Justices, *Tho. Player* and *Will. Rider*, and one of them commanded that the friend who was declaring the truth to the people should be fetcht out, which was hastily done, and the rest after him were fetcht out one by one, and there examined by the said *Player* and *Rider* concerning the cause of their being at that place, to which they answered, that their coming was to worship the Lord; then they asked friends if they would pay half a Crown a piece, to which they answered, nay, they could not make themselves transgressours, when they knew they were innocent; whereupon they were committed eleven of them to the common Goal at *Newgate*, there to remain without Bail or main prize for the space of two days.

Moreover, upon the 21th day of the 6th moneth aforesaid, friends (as they themselves had declared) being constrained in their spirits to continue the assembling of themselves together at their usual meeting-place at the *Peal* in *Johns street*, there to wait upon the Lord and to worship him, there came amongst them one *Thomas Steaks*, and one *Rich. Thorndell*, and one *Matthews*, with many other Constables and others to assist them, and seized on the most of men-friends, and led them by the arm out of the meeting, and from thence to the Sessions-house called *Hicks-hall*, and brought them up into an upper chamber where there was three called Justices of the peace, *viz. Reginald Foster*, *John Smith*, *Tho. Lucy*, who examined every particular of them concerning the end of their meeting together, to which answer was given, that the intent of their meeting was to wait upon the Lord, so *that* they made their crime, and for so doing they Fined them five shillings a piece, and because for Conscience sake they could not pay it being no transgressours of any righteous Law, they were committed and sent to *Newgate* to the number of about 28 there to remain without Bail or main prize for the space of 4 days, and then to be discharged.

Again, upon the 21th of the 6th moneth aforesaid, friends being again peaceably assembled at the *Bull* and *Mouth* to worship God in spirit and truth, the Marshal of the City with Constables and several military officers, and other assistants came with swords

swords and halberds, and entred our meeting-house, and violently halled out most or all that were there present assembled, and left them in the street, yet the doors being left open, and way being made for them, they returned into their meeting-house again, and a friend standing up to declare the truth to the people, was after a little time pulled down by one *Clarke*, Captain of a Train-band, and others with halberds, and carried away to the *Guild-Hall*, where several others were sent also, and whilst they were kept there, the Mayor of the City, with the Sheriffs and *Richard Brown*, with several officers of the City both civil and military came to the *Bull* and *Mouth*, and with carnal weapons entred the meeting the second time, and brought out friends before the Mayor and *Richard Brown*, who is a man so far from keeping the peace, that he is usually observed to be the first that breaks it, who then and there kicked some friends till thereby he drew bloud from them, and pulled the hair off the heads of several men, and pinched several of the womens arms till they were black, by which all people may easily judge whether this man be fitly qualified to sit in the place of a Magistrate, or whether he be not more fit to have the Law executed upon him for those inhumane gross abuses offered by him to our friends, but the Mayor was more moderate and offered no such kind of abuses, yet proceeded to the examination of friends concerning their names, places of abode, &c which being done, they imposed several Fines on them that told their names, which was to the number of about 159 which Fines they could not for Conscience sake pay, whereupon they were committed to *Newgate* prison, there to remain without Bail or main prize for the space of 4 days, and by reason of the great number that were in the prison before, there was not house room allowed them to lie down one by another, nor yet scarcely to sit, by reason whereof many were constrained to walk upon the leads for several nights, and as for those who did not tell their names which were in number about 27 they were committed to *Bridewell*, note here that though their *Mittimus* was made for 9 days, yet for dispatch of their intended work against us, they altered the *Mittimus* and ordered them to be discharged at 4 days end.

Again, on the 28 of the 6 h moneth aforesaid, friends being peaceably met together at their meeting-place near *Wheeler-*

street

ſtreet to wait upon the Lord and to worſhip him, there came a company of ſouldiers, and by the command of *C. Puſfield* and *T. Swanton* (called Juſtices, who were then preſent) took friends out of the meeting, and guarded them to an Alehouſe, where they impoſed ſeveral Fines upon them for their aſſembling to worſhip God, and friends refuſing to pay their ſeveral Fines impoſed, were committed and ſent to the common Goal of *Newgate*, to the number of 33 there to remain without Bail or main prize for the ſpace of ten days, only ſome of them to be kept till the next Goal-delivery to be proceeded againſt in order to tryal for Tranſportation.

And on the ſame day aforeſaid, at *Mile-end green* according to our wonted manner, friends were again aſſembled peaceably to wait upon the Lord, in which time there came a company of halberd men and kept guard over them, till 3 called Juſtices, *viz. W. Rider*, *T. Player*, and *G. Marſh*, with a conſiderable party of ſouldiers came alſo, who fetcht friends out of their meeting, both men and women, in all between 30 & 40. And the ſaid *Rider* with his company examined friends according to their uſual manner, and committed them to *Newgate*, ſome on the firſt and ſome on the ſecond offence as they call it, there to remain without Bail or main prize for the ſpace of 24 hours, and ſome of them being on the 3 account, are to be proceeded againſt for Tranſportation, whoſe tryal we expect this preſent Seſſions, but 4 of the aforeſad company being young Maids, they ſent to *Bridewell*, two of which were put in the ſtocks.

Moreover, it is obſervable that ſix of our friends being paſſing through an alley between *John ſtreet* and *Joanſes* the ſame day aforeſaid were taken by Conſtables, and carried to *Hickſes-hall* before 3 called Juſtices, who proceeded againſt them as uſually they do when they take us out of our meetings, and ſent them to *Newgate*, there to remain without Bail or main prize for the ſpace of 3 days, only one of them to be kept on the 3d offence (as they call it) till the next Goal-delivery, in order to Tranſportation.

Again, upon the 18 aforeſaid, our friends being peaceably aſſembled at the *Bull* and *Mouth* according to their wonted manner to worſhip God, there came *Anth. Bateman* Mayor, and our old adverſary *R. Brown*, who hath not yet anſwered for the bloud

of

of many that was not long ſince even ſtifled up in noyſome holes and priſons through his occaſion) and with their uſual guards of both civil and military officers, and placed themſelves near the door, and cauſed friends to be brought out before them, where they examined them according to their uſual manner, and for refuſing to pay the ſeveral fines by the ſaid Magiſtrates (unrighteouſly) impoſed on them, they were committed to the number of 60 at leaſt and ſent to *Newgate* (a backway and not through the ſtreets that their works of darkneſs might the leſs appear to the view of the world) there to be kept without bail or main prize for the ſpace of 4 days, ſuch of them as are for the 1 and 2 offence (as they call it) others of them that are on the 3 account, the Keeper of the priſon into whoſe cuſtody they are uſually ſent, receives orders from the Magiſtrates to obſerve their names, and to ſecure them till Goal delivery, and as the Keeper ſaith, he hath now in his cuſtody about 19 which are (as he ſaith) to come to their tryal (for their 3 offence ſo called) this preſent Seſſions; And this is ſtill obſervable, that *R. Brown* according to his wonted manner did (the day aboveſaid) tear the hair of friends heads with his own hands, and pinch the women, and abuſe many in a very inhumane and ſad manner.

And this is very obſervable, that becauſe their works of darkneſs (which they may well be aſhamed of) ſhould not appear or be much taken notice of; their uſual manner is (after the time is expired that friends are committed for) to put them out of priſon in the night ſeaſon

So here all may ſee and take notice how vigilant ſome of the Magiſtrates of this City of *London* are in ſuppreſſing the meetings and aſſemblies of the people of God, whoſe gathering and aſſembling is for no other end, but only to wait upon the Lord, and to worſhip him in ſpirit and truth according to the practice of the primitive Chriſtians, and becauſe we know, and are perſwaded in our Conſciences we cannot forſake this godly exerciſe, whatſoever we ſuffer for the continuance thereof: And we may appeal unto all ſober people through this Nation (and to the witneſs of God in the hearts of our perſecutors) who have known our manner of life and converſation, whether or no we have deſerved theſe things at the hands of theſe men, or whether they are righteouſly or unrighteouſly inflicted upon us; And although they may ſay they have a Law for what they do, &c. And according to their Law they ought to do it, and if they ſhould neglect the putting this Law in execution, they ſhall not be accounted the Kings friends, &c. I anſwer, ſo ſaid the Jews concerning Chriſt: We have a

Law,

Law, and by our Law he ought to die; and further said unto *Pilate*, if thou let this man alone thou art not *Cæsars* friend, yet their saying they had a Law, &c. did not make their proceedings just, no more this Law (by which these Magistrates of *London* doth now proceed against us to prison us in order to banishment, and so to death (if we return again) bear them out in what they do, or render their proceedings just in Gods account in the day when the Lord shall arise to make Inquisition for the bloud of his Saints and servants, and to render to every one a just reward according to their doings; neither in that day can the Law-makers bear out the Executioners of it, but every one must give an account to God for his own doings, therefore it concerns the Executioners of this Law (who have taken in hand this unrighteous (as it will prove) and cruel work) to consider what they are doing, and whether they can stand justified in the sight of God in what they do: For certainly (whether you will believe or no) the Lord is with us and will take our part, and will plead our cause, and what is done unto us, he takes as done unto himself; And they that strive to suppress us do not strive against us only, but against the Lord also who is (our strength) and in the end he will surely be too hard for them, and will grind them to powder and bruise them as in a morter, except they speedily repent.

And furthermore, it may be seen how the enmity of the devourer doth appear in these proceedings, who the sooner to hasten this work of banishment (and death upon return) doth usually commit friends for a very few days; nay, sometime but for 24 hours that so they may have them soon again upon another account. Oh sad times indeed, when (according to appearance) the greatest favour that can be shewn us (if they proceed against us at all by the late Law) is to keep us in prison as long as they can; when in the mean time Drunkards and Stage players, and (I may say) all kind of Vice tolerated, and no notice taken of it, by these men who are so zealously bent against an innocent and harmless people, that cannot run with them into the same excess of Riot.

THE END.